bridge the gap between demand and supply are given below:

Short term measures:

i. Inter-State and Inter-Regional exchange of power.

ii. Renovation and Modernisation Programme.

iii. Implementation of short-gestation projects.

iv. Supply of adequate quantity & quality of coal.

Long-term:

i. Promoting private sector investment in power sector.

ii. Higher emphasis on exploitation of hydro potential with an aim to reduce peak shortage.

iii. Transport of coal by ships for coastal power station and use of self-unloading ships.

iv. Coal benefication plants for new coal mines.

v. Strengthening of Transmission and distribution System for reducing losses and improving reliability.

vi. Energy Conservation and cogeneration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Preference to nuclear power

1427. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that while inaugurating the annual conference of International Association for Energy Economics in New Delhi recently the Minister of State in the Ministry of Power had stated that considering the environmental problems to the Hydel projects and Thermal power plants, Nuclear power is the preferred option;

(b) if so, what are the details of the progress made so far;

(c) whether a task force in this connection was appointed earlier; if so, what were its recommendations;

(d) whether Government have also taken a decision to appoint a fresh task force to appraise the cost effective options of power generation in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Reconsideration of the decision of Project Clearance by States

1428. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether eminent persons and environmentalists have urged Government to reconsider their decision to allow the State Governments to clear all the power projects;

(b) if so, whether there is any persistent demand to set up an independent Statutory Authority responsible for speedy appraisal and environmental clearance to power projects; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Some representations have been received urging Government to reconsider their decision to delegate powers to the State Government to clear power project from the environmental angle.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.